

What is claimed is:

1. A mount lock apparatus for a camera comprising:

a projecting exterior portion which is provided substantially at a central portion of a front surface of
5 a camera body;

a circular annular mount plate, which is fitted to said projecting exterior portion, and to which a photographing lens unit is detachably attached, said circular annular mount plate having a connecting surface
10 which contacts with said photographing lens unit;

a mount lock pin which is biased to protrude from said connecting surface of the circular annular mount plate to engage with said photographing lens unit at a predetermined position; and

15 a mount unlocking button which is operated to move said mount lock pin in a direction to retract from said connecting surface;

wherein said mount unlocking button is provided on a portion of an outer peripheral surface of said
20 projecting exterior portion that is located closer to a lens optical axis thereof than a farthestmost portion of said projecting exterior portion from the lens optical axis in a horizontal direction of said camera body.

2. The mount lock apparatus for a camera according
25 to claim 1, wherein the operating direction of said mount

unlocking button is parallel to a plane which is perpendicular to an optical axis of the photographing lens unit.

3. The mount lock apparatus for a camera according to claim 1, wherein said mount unlocking button is connected to an auto-focusing lens drive pin via a link mechanism.

4. The mount lock apparatus for a camera according to claim 3, wherein said link mechanism is provided with a mode selection device for selecting an auto-focus mode or a manual focus mode.

5. The mount lock apparatus for a camera according to claim 1, wherein said mount unlocking button is located inside a vertically-extending tangential plane of the outermost edge of the projecting exterior portion.

6. A camera having a mount lock apparatus, comprising:

a projecting exterior portion which is provided substantially at a central portion of a front surface of a camera body of said camera;

a circular annular mount plate, which is fitted to said projecting exterior portion, and to which a photographing lens unit is detachably attached, said circular annular mount plate having a connecting surface which contacts with said photographing lens unit;

a mount lock pin which is biased to protrude from said connecting surface of said circular annular mount plate to engage with said photographing lens unit at a predetermined position; and

5 a mount unlocking button which is operated to move the mount lock pin in a direction to retract from said connecting surface,

wherein said mount unlocking button is provided on a portion of an outer peripheral surface of said
10 projecting exterior portion that is located closer to a lens optical axis thereof than a farthestmost portion of said projecting exterior portion from the lens optical axis in a horizontal direction of said camera body.